2016 Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Cost Share Notice, Maine DEP

Grants are available from Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to lake organizations conducting invasive aquatic plant control projects. Eligible organizations include municipal and county governments, quasi-municipal organizations (including water districts) and 501(c)(3)-eligible organizations.

Grants are awarded according to priority. First priority addresses incipient invasive plant infestations with potential for eradication. Second priority aims to reduce spread of invasive aquatic plants within and between waterbodies, e.g., invasive plant removal near boat access points and in areas with high boat traffic. Third priority supports recurring maintenance projects.

Please note: It appears that the OSHA commercial dive standards may apply to operations that compensate SCUBA and/or hookah divers for plant control work. Divers paid to control invasive aquatic plants may be considered commercial divers under Occupational Safety and Health Administrations (OSHA) standards (link: OSHA Standards for Commercial Diving Operations).

I. Eligible Activities

This grant funding is for invasive aquatic plant control projects on infested lakes, as follows:

- Manual plant control techniques such as placement of benthic barriers, plant removal by hand, and plant removal by hand with suction dredge (i.e., Diver Assisted Suction Harvest or DASH).
- Plant surveys directly related to removal efforts, i.e., surveying infested areas prior to and/or after removal, if needed to focus removal efforts or monitor efficacy.
- Supervisor/coordinator expenses directly related to the removal operation. The application must show how these roles are integral to the removal operation.
- Other expenses directly related to invasive aquatic plant removal.
- Up to $500 of grant funding to help meet OSHA commercial diver standards referenced above.

II. Selection Criteria and Scoring (Maximum Score 100)

Project Purpose and Scope (25)

Describe what the project seeks to accomplish in 2016. Projects should identify clear goals, utilize proven and effective methods, indicate the likelihood of success and include a plan for monitoring effectiveness of removal efforts. Reviewers consider feasibility of project success, the potential for achieving long-term reduction of the infestation and the clarity in explanation of grant expenditures.

Community Support and Local Resources (20)

Applicants must bring their own resources to the project in the form of cash or a combination of cash and in-kind support (volunteer services for coordination and plant removal or donations of goods and services). For the 2016 grant cycle, a 20% cash match is required for each grant proposal. Preference is given to projects that maximize local match and demonstrate strong community support for invasive aquatic species prevention and control. Support letters are encouraged but not required.

Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program (10)

Applicants for plant control projects must have an active Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program or explain why one is not warranted.

Plant Survey (10)

Applicants must have completed at least a Level 2 plant survey per the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program's Invasive Aquatic Plant Screening Survey Procedures (link: VLMP Level 2 Survey). A Level 2

survey covers boat ramps, areas of concentrated boat traffic and shallow, sheltered coves. Grant funds support only plant surveys needed to direct plant removal efforts or assess efficacy of removal.

Track Record (20)
DEP considers the applicant's performance under past cost share grants, if applicable, and local interest and efforts to control invasive aquatic plants when reviewing the current application.

Training and Experience (15)
Applicants with trained and experienced staff and volunteers are given additional consideration. Examples of training are attendance at VLMP plant patrol workshops, SCUBA certification or other fundraising or organizing experience that enhances efficiency of the work.

III. Requirements, payment, and reporting deadlines
Requirements:

- 20% cash match.
- A current PBR (permit by rule) for manual control of invasive aquatic plants. Contact DEP (milfoil@maine.gov) if you don't know if you have a current PBR.
- A tracking sheet detailing plant removal efforts must be submitted to LEA with the interim report. You do not need to submit tracking sheets for removal after the interim report but those late season tracking sheets should be used for compiling information required on the final report.
- Recipients must follow the DEP protocol for manual control of invasive aquatic plants. DEP provides the protocol with the PBR.
- VLMP manual removal training is required for individuals engaged in plant removal supported by grants funds.
- To the extent applicable, your operation is responsible for all compliance with and enforcement of OSHA commercial diving standards if you receive a Maine DEP plant control grant and pay SCUBA and/or hookah divers.

Deadlines, payments, reporting:

- Grant applications must be received at Lakes Environmental Association by **March 4, 2016.**
- Grant award decisions are made by **April 1, 2016.**
- Seventy-five percent of grant amount is paid soon after grant award.
- An interim report must be submitted to LEA by **August 5, 2016**.
- The final twenty-five percent is paid upon receipt and approval of the final report. This payment is forfeited if the final report is not submitted by **November 4, 2016.**

To Apply
The deadline for applications is **March 4, 2016**. As funds for eligible activities are limited, applications received by the deadline will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Applications received after the due date may be considered if funds remain after the review of those already received.
Contents required for all application packets:

- ✓ Invasive Species Grant Application Form, Parts I - IV.
- ✓ Lake map showing infestations to be managed.

Submit application to: mary@leamaine.org or

Lakes Environmental Association
230 Main Street
Bridgton, ME 04009
Attn: Cost share projects

Electronic submission is strongly encouraged. Contact Mary Jewett at (207) 647-8580 with questions.

If you need assistance please contact Denise Blanchette (denise.l.blanchette@maine.gov) or John McPhedran (john.mcphedran@maine.gov). DEP can also be reached at milfoil@maine.gov.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

The instructions and sample application in the right column will guide you through **the application that starts on page 6**. *The Maine Citizens' Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plant Management* (http://www.mainevlmp.org/citizensguide/) provides additional guidance in developing tasks required below in Part III.

PART I:
Applicant Information
Enter information in each box. Please add project manager if different than grant contact person.

PART I : APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Organization:	
Address:	
State	Zip Code
Email:	Phone ( )
Contact Person	Project Manager (if different)

PART II:
Waterbody Information
Enter information in each box. Lake Maps included response is yes/no. For lake information go to http://www.lakesofmaine.org/
For state-sponsored and assisted public boat access sites go to http://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/water_activities/boating/public_boat_launches/index.shtml

PART II: WATERBODY INFORMATION		
Waterbody Name:		
Midas #	Lake Maps Included:	Invasive Plant:
Town(s) containing shoreline		
Public Access (check all that apply)	☐ State ☐ Municipal ☐ Private ☐ None	
Number of Public Access Points		
Surface Area (in acres) of Waterbody:		
CBI Program: ☐ YES ☐ NO (if no why)		(If Yes)How long?

Part III: Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Program 2016
Outline project plans for 2016 clearly, including objectives of control, timeline for activities, and evaluation of results.

1. Project Purpose and Summary: Briefly summarize project objectives and planned implementation.
Why is this project important for the lake and community? How is the local community involved? What do you want to accomplish? How will you measure success?

2. Summary of 2015 Plant Removal
Summarize invasive plant control work in 2015 and what was successful. Insert information from the Summary of 2015 Plant Removal table in your 2015 Final Report.

PART III: INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2016

All grants are required to outline their Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Program for 2016. Contact Maine DEP with any questions you have or if you need assistance in developing a plan.

1. **Project Purpose and Summary**

2. **Summary of 2015 Plant Removal**

Site name or number: Use name/number from grant application; please indicate if new site and show location on map	Benthic Barriers: Area Covered in square feet	Manual removal (includes DASH)		Observed condition of site at end of 2015 season Prompts to help in formulating response: • Is IAP density heavy, moderate, sparse? • Returned to natural conditions, i.e., no IAP visible? • IAP knocked back significantly but still present? • Slight reduction in IAP? • No change in IAP density?	Did removal in 2015 meet the objective set in grant application? Please explain why or why not.
		Amount removed: Specify unit of measure (gallons, bags, etc.)	Approximate area cleared		

3. Project sites, conditions and goals for 2016

A. **Current Condition** for each site: Information should include the location of the invasive plant targeted and indication of its density and presence of native plants; this comes from previous surveys and maps. If you lack a formal map at this point, DEP staff will discuss options for producing one. Maps are the starting point for your work and helps document your progress**.**
Aquatic plant inventory: Knowing whether the dominant species at a site is invasive or native will help select techniques to use. Indicate if native plants are within infested area and to what extent.
Plant Density: Provide your observation.
Priority/Value: List if the site is high, moderate or low priority for control based on uses affected, potential for spread if uncontrolled, and feasibility of success.
Uses Affected: Indicate affected use(s) at each infested site and if the use is of high, medium or low value.

B. **Desired Condition (Goal):** The desired outcome for each infested site. Select the appropriate qualitative measure(s) of effectiveness and/or measurable outcome(s) on the form relating to plant density, spread risk and uses.

3. 2016 Project Activities					
A. Current Condition (for each site, similar sites can be listed together) Provide maps from surveys.					**B. Desired Condition**
Plant Location Map and site	**Aquatic Plant Inventory** Mixed with natives, monoculture invasive	**Plant Density** Heavy Moderate Sparse	**Priority /Value** (High, medium or Low	**Uses Affected** Boating, fishing, launches, Swimming campgrounds, Others	• Return to Natural(previous) conditions • Maintain Current status • Prevent the spread to other waterbodies or in lake. • Keep boat traffic clear. • Others
Back Cove Map1, Site 1	All Invasive milfoil	Heavy	High	Boat ramp. Lots of fragments on launch and take out	Prevent spread in and out of lake. Keep boat traffic clear.
Front Cove Map 2, Site 3	All invasive milfoil	moderate	medium	Fishing and swimming	Maintain Current Status

4. Management Program and Timeline

Choose the combination of control efforts that best meets the needs with the least environmental impacts. Also identify how the work will be accomplished. *Control methods are described in the "Maine Citizens' Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plant Management" Section IV Chapter 8.*

Indicate the following:

Site: Where will you be working? Be specific and refer to maps.

Who: Person(s) responsible for doing the work.

What activities: The task to be completed: is it hand pulling, DASH work or other?

Needed Resources: Identify materials, staff or other resources and level of effort needed to do the activity. Example: number of volunteers, dive time, surface support, boat, trucks, disposal, etc.

When: Cite the projected start and projected finish of each activity. When during the season should work on specific sites occur? Timing of work needs to balance the priority of sites, methods and costs, resources available and habitat needs of non-target species, and may vary to respond to changing conditions (weather, water level, personnel availability).

EXAMPLE: Management Program and Timeline

Management Program & Timeline				
Project Strategy and Timeline – Highest priority first				
Site	Who	What Activity	Needed Resources	When
Back Cove Map 1, Site 3	DASH Team Captain	Clear VLM at ramp for boat traffic	4 DASH staff – 3 days 20 hours, 2 volunteers 20 hours, DASH Boat, 25 bags, truck for hauling removed plants.	5/15
Front Cove, Map 2, Site 2	Association manager	Placing benthic barriers	Contracted Divers- 4hrs, (2) 10 X 10 Barriers. Boat	6/10

Monitoring

Assessing managed sites for plant density and efficacy of removal efforts is required. You will document this in the final report.

All projects should be monitored to document how much was done, location, project effectiveness and considerations for continued actions or justification of further expenditures.

5. Community Support

Volunteers- non-paid help

Staff – paid organization personnel

Equipment- boats, rakes, gear, etc.

Expertise/Experience – training such as IPP (Invasive Plant Patrollers), VLMP diver training, SCUBA certifications, and mapping.

Other Interested Organizations: Are there other collaborators, e.g., do you work with the local town to dispose of plants? Are there are groups that help survey?

5. Community Support (name of organization) Contact Information	Task	Volunteers or Staff	Equipment	Expertise/ Experience
Lake Association volunteers		5 IPP's	Kayaks	Captain's license
Town of Plenty	Dispose of plants		Dump Truck	
Lake Association staff	Scheduling	1 staff		

Part IV: Estimated Project Costs

The Itemized Budget provides the detailed costs for the project. A 20% Cash match is required for 2016 grants. Complete the table and contact LEA if you have questions.

Invasive Plant Management Grant Application

Submit by _____ to: mary@leamaine.org or:
Lakes Environmental Association
230 Main Street
Bridgton, ME 04009
Attn: Cost share projects

PART I : APPLICANT INFORMATION

Organization:	
Address:	
State	Zip Code
Email:	Phone ( )
Contact Person	Project Manager (if different)

PART II: WATERBODY INFORMATION

Waterbody Name:		
Midas #	Lake Maps Included: ☐ YES ☐ NO	Invasive Plant:
Town(s) containing shoreline		
Public Access (check all that apply)	☐ State ☐ Municipal ☐ Private ☐ None	
Number of Public Access Points		
Total Acreage of Waterbody:		
CBI Coverage: ☐ YES ☐ NO (if no why)		(If Yes)How long?
Name Inlets/outlets:		

PART III: INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2016

Please see the attached instructions for completing the Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Program. Contact Maine DEP with any questions you have or if you need assistance in developing a plan.

1. **Project Purpose and Summary**

PART III: INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CON'T)

All grants are required to have an Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Program for 2016. Please see the attached instructions for completing the Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Program. Contact Maine DEP with any questions you have or if you need assistance in developing a plan.

2. Summary of 2015 Plant Removal

Site name or number: Use name/number from grant application; please indicate if new site and show location on map	Benthic Barriers: Area Covered in square feet	Manual removal (includes DASH)		Observed condition of site at end of 2015 season Prompts to help in formulating response: • Is IAP density heavy, moderate, sparse? • Returned to natural conditions, i.e., no IAP visible? • IAP knocked back significantly but still present? • Slight reduction in IAP? • No change in IAP density?	Did removal in 2015 meet the objective set in grant application? Please explain why or why not.
		Amount removed: Specify unit of measure (gallons, bags, etc.)	Approximate area cleared		

3. Project Activities					
A. Current Conditions for each site, similar sites can be listed together. Indicate sites on map(s).					**B. Desired Condition**
Plant Location/Map and site	Aquatic Plant Inventory Mixed with natives, monoculture invasive	Plant Density • Heavy • Moderate • Sparse mixed with natives	Priority for removal: High, medium or Low	Uses affected – Boating, fishing, launches, swimming, campgrounds, Others	• Return to natural(previous) conditions • Maintain current status • Prevent the spread to other waterbodies or in lake • Keep boat traffic clear • Others

4. Management Strategy and Timeline by Site				
Project Strategy and Timeline – Order from high to low priority				
Site	Who	What activity	Needed resources	When

5.Community Support: name of organization/town/individual	Task	Volunteers or paid staff	Equipment	Experience/Expertise

PART IV: ESTIMATED COST INFORMATION

Table 1. Anticipated Expenditures: Group together staff with identical duties and hourly rate.

			Column A	Column B	Column C
Expenditures (e.g. divers, coordinators, etc. Add lines as needed	Total # Hours	Hourly Rate	Total Costs	*Grant* $: Total covered by Grant	*Cash Match*= Columns A-B
Diver(s)		$	$	$	$
Coordinator		$	$	$	$
Surface Support		$	$	$	$
			$	$	$
Grand total expenditures			$	$	$

Table 2. Volunteers: Group volunteer duties by category (e.g., divers, coordinator, etc.).

Volunteer Categories	Number of Volunteers	Total Number of Hours
Divers		
Coordinator		
Surface Support		
Other (describe)		
Total		

Table 3. Match Breakdown: Cash match, volunteer time, and donations of goods and service.

This table is to totally account for all non-grant cash (e.g., cash match) and donated labor, materials, and services. None of this is from grant funds. List type of match by duty (diver, coordinator, etc.) and specify activity if "Other".

SOURCE OF LOCAL MATCH	TOTAL$

		Column A	Column B	Column C	
Match description Donations of: Time Materials Cash	Match Source	Cash Match (Total should equal total Table 1 Column C)	Value of volunteer match = Total hours from Table 2 at $20.54* per hour (divers $50/hr.)	Value of Non-cash Donations (e.g. goods & services; charge mileage at $0.58/mile)	Total Match Value: Add Columns A, B, & C totals to get match total
Diver(s)					
Coordinator					
Other expenses describe and add lines as needed					
Total					

*Source: http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

Table 4: Summary of Project Costs

	Total Funds
Amount of grant requested: Total found in Table 1, Column B	$
Amount of cash match: Table 1 Column C or Table 3 Column A	$
In Kind value: Table 3 Columns B+C	$
Total Project Cost	